

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hypoallergenic skin or hair treating composition comprising human serum albumin in an amount effective to enhance cleansing, conditioning, or other beneficial cosmetic or dermatological purpose for skin or hair and a suitable cleansing, conditioning, cosmetic or dermatological agent, vehicle, carrier or excipient.

2. A composition according to claim 1 which is in the form of a shampoo, cream, soap, oil or lotion.

3. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the serum albumin comprises a recombinant serum albumin.

4. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the serum albumin comprises a serum albumin that has at least a one-amino acid truncation at its n-terminal end.

5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the serum albumin comprises a serum albumin that has at least one mutation at its n-terminal end sufficient to cause steric hindrance at the binding region VI and thereby reduce or eliminate the albumin's affinity to trace metals.

6. A composition according to claim 1 comprising serum albumin dissolved in a liquid soap.

7. A composition according to claim 7 wherein the serum albumin comprises 1 to 10 mg/ml of the liquid soap.

8. A composition according to claim 1 comprising serum albumin dissolved in a glycerin solution.

9. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the glycerin solution comprises a 10-60% glycerin solution.

10. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the glycerin solution comprises a 15% glycerin solution.

11. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the serum albumin in the glycerin solution is at a concentration in the range of about 1 to 250 mg/ml.

12. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the serum albumin in the glycerin solution is at a concentration of about 40 mg/ml.

13. A method of treating skin or hair comprising topically applying the composition of claim 1 to skin or hair for a cosmetic or dermatological purpose.

14. A method of preparing a skin or hair treating composition comprising adding serum albumin to a cleansing, conditioning, cosmetic or dermatological agent, vehicle, carrier or excipient in an amount effective to enhance cleansing, conditioning, or other beneficial cosmetic or dermatological purpose for skin or hair.

15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the human serum albumin comprises a recombinant human serum albumin.

16. A method of treating skin wounds or damaged skin comprising applying to said skin the composition of Claim 1 in an amount effective to achieve wound debridement.

17. A hypoallergenic skin or hair treating composition according to Claim 1 comprising 1-60 mg/ml human serum albumin in a 10-60% glycerin solution.

18. A hypoallergenic skin or hair treating composition comprising 40 mg/ml human serum albumin in a 15% glycerin solution.

19. A hypoallergenic skin or hair treating composition comprising 40 mg/ml recombinant human serum albumin in a 15% glycerin solution.

20. A hypoallergenic skin or hair treating composition comprising 40 mg/ml of a modified human serum albumin that has at least one mutation at its n-terminal end sufficient to cause steric hindrance at the binding region VI and thereby reduce or eliminate the albumin's affinity to trace metals, in a 15% glycerin solution.